Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: I claim notice; the whole amount remitted is Rs. 1,355.

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai: Does that amount include water cess also?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao I claim notice

Mr. V. S. Arumukham Pillai Is there not provision in the Land Revenue Manual to remit water cess in cases where the land cannot be served with Kodayar water?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: Yes, there is such a provision?

Mr. V. S. Arumukam Pillai: Are the Government justified in realising water cess in the light of such provision?

Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao: The water is controlled by the P. W. D. and when that department writes to the L. R. Department that water cannot be supplied, action will be taken.

SHORT NOTICE OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Complaint of political prisoners regarding ill-treatment.

1. **Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any political prisoners have made any statements before the Court of the Division First Class Magistrate, Trivandrum, complaining about the ill-treatement which they were subjected to in the Central Jail;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the number of statements made, and the names of those who made the statements; and

(*c*) whether any action has been taken on the statements so made?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) A petition was presented by Miss. Akkamma Cheriyan, accused in C. C. No. 101/14 of the Division First Class Magistrate's Court, Trivandrum.

(*c*) Yes. The enquiry shows that the allegations are false The member's attention is invited to the Press Note dated the 26th January 1939 annexed hereto.

Annexure.

PRESS NOTE.

A statement issued by Mr. Pattam Thanu Pillai, President of the Travancore State Congress, contains serious allegations about the treatment meted out to Miss Akkamma Cheriyan, and her sister in the Central Jail, Trivandrum. Government find on investigation that those allegations are wholly unfounded.

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Investigations reveal that some women convicts who were undergoing rigorous imprisonment and who had to clean the women's ward complained about the manner in which the two women under-trials, Miss Akkamma Cheriyan and her sister, used the latrine. They remonstrated. The next day when the convict women were passing by their cells the under-trial prisoners raised shouts of Ki-Jails, when the former retorted that they were doing so because they had none to control them. Apparently words were exchanged.

The under-trials complained to the Jail Superintendent about the behaviour of the convicts and thereatened to go on hunger-strike. The matter was investigated and peace restored between the women convicts and the women under-trial prisoners.

Similarly investigations made into the complaints of members of the Youth League showed that they claimed privileges which cannot be allowed under the Jail Rules. These could not be allowed to them.

The allegation that the person and honour of any prsioner is at stake is a deliberate and mischievous falsehood disseminated for propagandist purposes. The treatment of prisoners in Travancore compares not unfavourably with the treatment elsewhere in India.

Huzur Cutcherry, (Sd.) N. P. HARIHARAN,
Trivandrum, 26th January 1939. *Director of Information.*

Hunger strike of political prisoners in the Central Jail.

2. **Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi**: Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether the political prisoners in the Central Jail have gone on hunger strike recently ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the names of the prisioners who have gone on hunger strike and their reasons for so doing;

(*c*) whether they are still on hunger strike ; and

(*d*) whether the Government have enquired into the matter and taken any step to redress their grievances ?

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: (*a*) One prisoner Kunjuraman Nair starved for a day, *viz.*, 13-2-1939.

(*b*) Non compliance with his requests for concessions.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Government have enquired into the matter What the prisoner wanted was a separate kitchen for himself and for some of his comrades. This request could not be allowed as being against Rule 297 of the Jail Rules.

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